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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, H. A.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS
NO. 5

LIGHT COVERAGE DUE TO SUNDAY SCHEDULE; STORIES FEATURE POSSIBLE CHINESE DOUBTS ON VALUE OF US/PRC RELATIONS.

1. WIRES -

AP - SHORT TAKES FROM TOKYO ON RADIO-WIRE (NO BYLINE) TELL OF HAK BREAKFAST WITH JAPANESE FM MIYAZAWA AND DEPARTURE FOR PEKING. EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAYS BREAKFAST TALKS ABOUT SOUTH KOREAN ADMISSION TO UN, GRAIN SALES TO SOVS, AND ECONOMIC SUMMIT COMING IN DECEMBER.

UPI - GROWALD FROM PEKING SAYS SMILES AT ARRIVAL DID NOT HID SIGNS THAT "SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS MAY BE COOLINGA BIT." FM CHIAO GREETED HAK AT PLANESIDE, BUT NO CROWD OF FLAG-WAVERS WAS ON HAND, AS ON PREVIOUS VISITS.

"FOREIGN RESIDENTS OF PEKING SAID LEFT WING IN CHINA'S
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COMMUNIST SOCIETY WAS MAKING NOISES AND QUESTIONING VALUE

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OF WARMER RELNS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES THAT GREW OUT OF THAT 1971 VISIT. KISSINGER CAME TO ARRANGE A LATE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER VISIT BY PRESIDENT FORD AND -- JUST AS IMPORTANTLY -- TO TRY TO ASSURE THE CHINESE THAT SINO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP IS WORTH EFFORT. DIPLOMATS SAID CHINESE ARE WORRYING THAT U.S. MAY HAVE BECOME SOMETHING OF A PAPER TIGER, UNABLE TO SWING INFLUENCE IT ONCE DID IN WORLD AFFAIRS. THEY SAID CHINESE FRETTED THAT SUCH DEVELOP MENTS AS CONGRESS TEMPORARILY BLOCKING FORD ADMINISTRATION' SALE OF ARMS TO TURKEY INDICATED A WEAKENING IN WASHINGTON ABILITY TO INFLUENCE WORLD EVENTS. CHIEFLY, DIPLOMATS SAID, CHINESE WANT TO BE ASSURED THAT AMERICA REMAINS A SUPER POWER CAPABLE OF COUNTERING SOVIET UNION WITH WHOM PEKING IS WAGING A COLD WAR..."

2. NEWSPAPERS

NYTIMES: GELB ON PAGE ONE, HEADLINED "KISSINGER INTENDS TO ASSURE PEKING ON US-SOVIET TIE." BREZHNEV VISIT IN DOUBT - NEWSMEN ARE TOLD HE WILL NOT RPT NOT COME TO WASHINGTON WITHOUT NEW ARMS PACT."

REPORTERS WERE GIVEN IMPRESSION ABOARD PLANE THAT US-SOV RELNS WOULD BE HIGH ON AGENDA FOR TALKS WITH PRC OFFICIALS RELNS AMONG WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, AND PEKING ENTERING A NEW PHASE, WASHINGTON-MOSCOW WAS THE KEY. CHINESE LEADERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT US ABILITY TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE OF POWER. HAK WILL THEREFORE TRY TO CONVINCE PRC THAT US IS AWARE OF SOV THREAT.

NEWSMEN WERE TOLD THAT BREZHNEV WILL NOT COME UNLESS THERE IS A NEW SALT ACCORD; FIRST TIME LINKAGE OF SALT AND SUMMI WAS STATED DIRECTLY. SOV RESPONSE IS DUE WITHIN THREE WEEKS, BUT NOT EXPECTED TO LEAD TO BREAKTHROUGH. REPORTER TOLD NOTHING MONUMENTAL SHOULD BE EXPECTED OF THIS TRIP: OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND DISCUSS POSSIBLE DIFFERENCES OF CONCEPTION ON PROBLEMS AND SOLU-TIONS. STATUS OF TAIWAN AND PROGRESS ON SHANGHAI COMMUNIQ WILLALSO BE DISCUSSED. PRC HAS NOT BEEN PRESSING FOR IMMEDIATE SOLUTION OF TAIWAN QUESTION; NO ADVANTAGE TO US
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TO SEEK FINAL SETTLEMENT AT THIS TIME, NEWSMEN WERE TOLD. UNTIL ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO, FORD ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN ACTIVELY CONSIDERING QUESTION; PROBLEM NOW IS WHO WILL SUCCEED AILING PRC LEADERS MAO AND CHOU. HAK REJECTS SUCCESSION AS A PROBLEM, SAYING DEPUTY PREMIER TENG MUST REPRESENT CONSENSUS. TAIWAN WILL NOT BE RESOLVED FOR SOME YEARS, IT SEEMS. OTHER AREAS, SUCH AS TRADE, WILL

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PROBABLY REMAIN UNIMPROVED ALSO. FORD TRIP TO PEKING WOULD BE TOTALLY IN PRC INTEREST, BUT IF ATMOSPHERE WAS FOUND TO BE UNCONGENIAL BY HAK, PRESIDENT COULD CHANGE HIS MIND.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED DURING SUCCESSION, PEKING WOULD PROBABLY NOT REPT NOT MOVE CLOSER TO MOSCOW, BECAUSE OF IDEOLOGICAL HOSTILITY AND LONG, DISPUTED COMMON BORDER. LIMITED PROGRESS IN US/PRC RELNS MADE MOSCOW LESS CONCERNED 7HAN EARLIER. (COMPANION PIECE FROM BUTTERFIELD IN HONG KONG SAYS PRC LEADERSHIP IS DISAPPOINTED BUT STILL PATIENT WITH SLOW PROGRESS OF US/PRC RELNS. TAIWAN ISSUE AND RECENT TIBETAN SONG AND DANCE ARE SEEN AS TWO EXAMPLES OF REMAIN-ING PROBLEMS.)

WASH POST - GREENWAY ON PAGE 1 FROM TOKYO SAYS PEKING "HAS BECOME OPENLY DUBIOUS ABOUT STATE OF SINO-AMERICAN RELNS AND HOSTILE TO WASHINGTON'S PURSUIT OF DETENTE WITH SOVIET UNION." NEITHER PRC NOR US EXPECT MUCH OF CONSEQUENCE TO RESULT FROM FORD'S VISIT, YET CHINESE APPEAR TO WELCOME CHANCE TO TALK WITH PRESIDENT FORD.

DOUBTERS SAY U.S. HAS LITTLE TO OFFER TO FURTHER RELNS; FULL DIPLOMATIC RELNS, AND BREAKING LINKS WITH TAIWAN, ARE NOT IN THE CARDS, AS KISSINGER HAS SAID.

CHINESE PATIENCE AT THIS TIME UNDOUBTEDLY CAUSED BY PRC FEARS OF USSR. INDOCHINA OUTCOME CREATES NEW PROBLEMS FOR PRC AS THEY FEAR SOVS WILL BECOME PREDOMINANT IN INDOCHINA; POST-HELSINKI EUROPE ALSO DANGEROUS, SINCE WEST GAVE GROUND TO SOVS WITH LITTLE IN RETURN. HAK ADVOCACY OF DETENTE MAY HAVE CAUSED DISILLUSIONMENT; CHINESE FEEL U.S. MAY HAVE ALREADY PAID TOO HIGH A PRICE. PRC MAY WANT "REASSURANCES THAT KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT FORD VALUE SINO-UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICAN RELNS FOR THEIR OWN SAKE RATHER THAN AS A PAWN IN A SOVIET-AMERICAN GAME. THEY MAY EVEN BE CURIOUS TO SEE IF PRESIDENT FORD'S ATTITUDES DIFFER FROM THOSE OF KISSINGER."

PRC OBJECTIONS TO TIBETAN OFFICE SHOW DEEP MISUNDERSTANDING OF SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. TRADE, MOST-FAVORED-NATION, FROZEN ASSETS ALL REMAIN DEADLOCKED.

"IN THE LONG RUN, HOWEVER, CHINESE CONSIDER BALL TO BE IN WASHINGTON'S COURT AS FAR AS LIVING UP TO TERMSOFSHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE IS CONCERNED. THEY MAY WELL BELIEVE KISSINGER HAS BEEN STALLING, AND IF THEY ARE WILLING TO POSTPONE VISIBLE PROGRESS FOR TIME BEING, THEY ARE NOT WILLING TO ABANDON IT."

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3. NETWORKS

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NO NETWORK NEWS PROGRAMS, EXCEPT RADIO, WHERE ANNOUNCERS KEEP US UP TO DATE ON SECRETARY'S LOCATION AND DINNER PLANS.

(CHITRIB AND LATIMES NOT AVAILABLE; TIME, NEWSWEEK, WSJOURN NOT PUBLISHED.) INGERSOLL

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